

Living in Barrow

Glenn Sheehan –

Since 1944 there have been science projects going on here. The navy landed here in 1944, started looking for oil to support the war efforts because it was during World War II. Then a few years, the complex that we're in the middle of got switched off wholly to science really. Some of it classified and much of it not, it's continued one way or another up till today.

John Cooper –

Barrow is situated on the North Slope coast of Alaska so there is a sea ice environment just off shore here that we're seeing how it involves with the respect to the climate up here and the wind conditions. The weather up here is very variable and we can go from being relatively long to -40, 50 degrees in a short time depending on what the wind conditions are. If you're standing in a barrow and it's -20 Fahrenheit but the wind is not blowing it's actually quite comfortable as long as you're wearing reasonable clothing. But the moment the wind begins to blow it can become extremely uncomfortable and people really do not spend much time outdoors.

Earl Finker -

I'd say the people here don't take the sun for granted; it's a lot and then none. But even when there is no sun, theoretically we have several twilights 3 or 4 hours and you can read the newspaper of the lunch hour and things like that. You can kind of see it now, the twilight before the sun actually rises

Richard Glenn –

What I admire the most is the people that stay active regardless of the seasonal change because there is so much to be done and you can be active all year 'round and so you don't have to fall into that stereotypical image of someone whose sluggish in the winter and then covering their windows in foil in the summer to attempt to recreate darkness instead, they just follow those seasons and you work when you can and you sleep when you're tired

Earl Finker –

In summer I find that I stay up late and do writing or write poetry till 1, 2, 3 in the morning and I got to be here about 5 so you can get exhausted doing too much. Some parents say its hard to get the kids to go to bed when it's 24 hour daylight. But most people have been here awhile, I mean, they just know that that's a cycle and adjust or at least they say it. Sometimes people go out on a vacation from the 1st of the year around the holidays to go see the sun somewhere but, like I say, if you're in the middle of something and you know it's going to change again so roll with it. And when there's no sun carry forward your duties; walk the dogs, get to work and everything just like you do other times.

Richard Glenn –

And that's the way of life here in January, the sun comes up above the horizon here, the next day it comes up a little to the left and then goes down a little bit to the right and that stretch above the horizon just keeps getting longer and longer and higher and higher as January turns to February and February turns to March and so on. And by the end of April and the beginning of May instead of it just coming up it's making nearly circular path all the way around and by the time August comes around it starts to dip to the horizon off to the Northwest. It's a wonderful progression to watch

Laura Thomas –

I love living in Barrow, I always wanted to live in the Arctic, it's always been my dream to live in the Arctic. Barrow is a wonderful community, I feel really privileged to live here and be a part of the community. As a archeologist, as an Arctic-archeologist to actually live in the Arctic and to be a part of the community where you do archeology is a pretty rare and amazing phenomenon and I always like to say that there is more going on in Barrow, Alaska because of this long history of science in the communities openness and willingness to take scientist under their wing.

Richard Glenn –

This is a great place to study the Arctic environment and welcome you all here.